CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Grand Chapter

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

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Grand Royal Arch Chapter

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

ADOPTED A. L. 5861.

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CONSTITUTION.

THE Officers and Members of the GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, for the better government and regulation of themselves and of the CHAPTERS under their jurisdiction, do ordain and establish the following General and Particular Regulations:

General Regulations.

ARTICLE I.

This Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall consist of the following officers, to wit:

Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Three Grand Masters of the Veils, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplains, Grand

Lecturers, Grand Stewards, Grand Tyler, together with Past Grand High Priests, Past Deputy Grand High Priests, Kings and Scribes, and of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes, for the time being, of the several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, all of whom shall be entitled to a vote in the Grand Chapter, except the Grand Tyler.

ARTICLE II.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall hold four communications in a year, to wit: on the Tuesday next preceding the second Wednesday in March, June, September, and December, of which the communication in December shall be the annual communication, and the time for the choice of officers, of whom the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected by ballot, and the others shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest, so chosen; all of whom, if present, shall be duly installed on that day, or at such other

time as the Grand Chapter shall designate; and if any of said officers shall be absent at the time of his election or appointment, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to forward him due notice thereof, with a request that he would signify his acceptance or refusal in writing, within twenty days at least preceding the next regular meeting of the Grand Chapter; and should any of said officers decline accepting the office assigned him, or neglect to give notice thereof within the time aforesaid, then such office shall be deemed vacant, and filled at the next regular meeting of said Grand Chapter. And all other vacancies of office, by resignation or otherwise, shall be filled at the regular communication next succeeding the same. And all communications of the Grand Chapter shall hereafter be holden in Boston.

ARTICLE III.

All Grand Officers, at the time of their installation, shall make the following declaration: "I, A. B., do solemnly promise and

swear that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, and that of the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

ARTICLE IV.

In case of the absence of the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, and Grand Scribe, it shall be the duty of the oldest past officer of those grades respectively to preside; and in case of the absence of all the past officers, the High Priest of the oldest Chapter present shall preside.

ARTICLE V.

No person shall be eligible to the office of Grand High Priest for more than three years successively, or hold the office of High Priest of a subordinate Chapter during his term of office in the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE VI.

It shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest to appoint one or more discreet and

well-informed Companions, to be styled Grand Lecturer, who shall be commissioned by the Grand High Priest, with the seal of the Grand Chapter affixed, and attested by the Grand Secretary, which commission shall be in force until the conclusion of the annual communication in December, and no longer.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer, when requested by any subordinate Chapter, and directed by the Grand High Priest, to visit any Chapter under this jurisdiction, and teach them the lectures and mode of work; and the Chapter so employing him shall make him a reasonable compensation for his services.

He shall keep a record of his proceedings, and submit it to the inspection of the Grand High Priest when required, and shall make no alterations in the lectures without permission of the Grand Chapter. The system established by the Grand Chapter, and taught by the Grand Lecturer, shall be the standard for the regulation of all Chapters under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VII.

A committee of three shall be appointed at the annual meeting, immediately after the the installation of the Grand Officers, to be styled the *Committee of Finance*, whose duty it shall be to examine and audit all bills presented against the Grand Chapter, together with the Grand Treasurer's and Secretary's accounts and books, and report at the annual communication in December, previously to the election of officers.

ARTICLE VIII.

Every petition for a warrant to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall be signed by at least nine regular Royal Arch Masons, within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, which petition shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Chapter within this Commonwealth nearest the place where the new Chapter is intended to be opened, vouching for the moral character and masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending to the Grand Chapter to grant them a warrant; and if it shall meet the approbation of this Grand Chapter, the Grand High Priest shall grant his dispensation for the same, to be in force not exceeding twelve months, and during that time the members of said Chapter shall be examined, with regard to their ability to perform the requisite duties, by a committee to be appointed by the Grand High Priest; said committee to report to the Grand High Priest; and if their report meet his approbation, he shall, within the year aforesaid, unless a further time is granted by a vote of the Grand Chapter, appoint a time for the consecration of said Chapter and installation of the officers, and direct the Secretary to make out a charter, to bear even date with the dispensation; and said Chapter shall pay fifty cents per month for the time it shall have held its warrant.

And if a majority of the members of any Chapter, at a regular meeting notified for that purpose, shall vote to remove their

Chapter to any other place, the Grand Chapter may sanction and authorize such removal, if recommended by the Chapter nearest to the place to which the Chapter is proposed to be removed.

The fees for the charter shall be paid upon receiving the dispensation.

ARTICLE IX.

No warrant shall be granted by this Grand Chapter for holding a Mark Masters', Past Masters', or Most Excellent Masters' Lodge, independent of a Royal Arch Chapter.

ARTICLE X.

The fees for a warrant for holding a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and opening Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, shall be ninety dollars; and the Secretary shall be paid by the petitioners five dollars for his services in executing the charter.

ARTICLE XI.

The several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall pay for the support thereof, into the hands of the Grand Treasurer, annually, the sum of six dollars, and also three dollars for every candidate who shall be exalted in such Chapter, and shall be entitled to receive of the Grand Secretary one diploma for each candidate exalted.

ARTICLE XII.

Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons under this jurisdiction shall be represented by its High Priest, King, and Scribe, or either of them, in person or by their respective proxies, at every meeting of the Grand Chapter; and, at the annual communication in December, make a duplicate return of the names of its officers and members, and of the candidates by it exalted, (one of which returns shall be held by the Grand Treasurer, and the other by the Chapter,) and pay their dues to the Grand Treasurer. If any Chapter under

this jurisdiction shall fail to assemble once in any year, or shall neglect to be represented in this Grand Chapter for two years in succession, or shall fail for two successive years to make a return of its officers and members and pay its dues to this Grand Chapter, then, and in either case of delinquency, the said Chapter shall forfeit to the use of this Grand Chapter its charter, with its records, jewels, regalia and furniture, together with its monetary and all other property of every description.

ARTICLE XIII.

No candidate shall be exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason by any Chapter under this jurisdiction for a less sum than twenty-five dollars, and no candidate shall be balloted for until said fee shall be paid, and no note of hand shall be taken by any Chapter for the fees, or any part of the fees, due on the exaltation or advancement of any candidate.

ARTICLE XIV.

The application of any and every candidate, who is a resident in this Commonwealth, for exaltation in any Chapter under this jurisdiction, shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant, and be in the following form, to wit:

To the Most Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe, and Companions of ——— *Chapter.*

I, ———, having received the degree of Master Mason in ——— Lodge, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of ———, having the good of the Craft at heart, and being desirous of obtaining further light in Masonry, do fraternally offer myself a candidate for the degrees conferred in your Chapter. Should my petition be granted, I promise a cheerful compliance with all the forms and usages of the Fraternity.

My residence is in ———, occupation ———. I have —— before applied for said degrees.

Dated at ——, 187 .

Signed,

——— ———.

And said application shall be accompanied by the recommendation of at least three Royal Arch Masons, and shall be in the following form, to wit:

We, the subscribers, hereby certify that we are acquainted with ———, named in the above application, and believe him to be of regular and upright conduct, fair fame, sober life, and good moral character. We do, therefore, recommend him as a Master Mason, worthy and well qualified to be exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason.

Dated at ——, 187 .

Signed,

——— ———.
——— ———.
——— ———.

And said application shall lay over one meeting of said Chapter at least, for the consideration of the members thereof, and no ballot shall be taken upon the application of any candidate within fourteen days from the meeting at which he was proposed, unless in cases of emergency, when a dispensation from the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, or Grand Scribe, shall be obtained; and no candidate shall be received or admitted to the degrees without a unanimous vote in his favor.

ARTICLE XV.

No candidate, residing in any town or city where one or more Chapters are holden under

this jurisdiction, shall be exalted in any other Chapter within the jurisdiction without the consent of the High Priest, King, and Scribe of each of the Chapters in the town or city where said candidate resides.

ARTICLE XVI.

No Chapter under this jurisdiction shall receive for exaltation to the sublime degrees a candidate who is resident in another of the United States where Grand or subordinate Chapters are established agreeably to the rules and regulations of the General Grand Chapter, except by the consent of the Chapter nearest the place of residence of said applicant.

ARTICLE XVII.

An applicant to any Chapter under this jurisdiction for the sublime degrees, who is a foreigner, or not a resident of any of the United States where Chapters are held agreeably to the regulations of the General Grand Chapter of said States, must have his applica-

tion written and signed by himself and four members of the Chapter to which he applies for exaltation, or by himself and six members of other Chapters under this jurisdiction. And any worthy Companion from without the jurisdiction of the United States who may present himself as a Royal Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of his having received that degree, each and every Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter have liberty, and they are hereby authorized, to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master on such Companions (who have not heretofore received them), to the end that they may be healed, and thereby become regular Royal Arch Masons, free of charge; and the subordinate Chapter conferring said degrees free of charge shall be exempt from paying any dues therefor.

ARTICLE XVIII.

No candidate whose application may be rejected in any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be exalted in any Chapter other than that to which he first applied, without a recommendation from nine members of said Chapter, of whom the High Priest, King, and Scribe shall be three; and it shall be the duty of every Chapter under this jurisdiction to communicate all rejections of candidates to this Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE XIX.

No Royal Arch Mason shall be admitted a member of any Chapter under this jurisdiction, unless he shall have regularly received the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

ARTICLE XX.

No Royal Arch Mason shall be a member of two separate and distinct Chapters under this jurisdiction at one and the same time.

ARTICLE XXI.

No Chapter or assembly of Royal Arch Masons, that may hereafter be formed within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall be deemed legal without the sanction of a warrant from this Grand Chapter. Masonic communication, either public or private, is hereby strictly forbidden between any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, or between any member of said Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, and any Chapter or Lodge that may be so illegally opened, or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge.

The punishment for breach of any part of this article shall be expulsion and exclusion from the benefits of Royal Arch Masonry.

ARTICLE XXII.

The High Priest, King, and Scribe of any Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, when not able to attend the com-

munications, shall appoint their proxies by a commission signed with their names, to which their seal shall be affixed; which commission shall continue in force only during the year for which the said High Priest, King, or Scribe was elected.

Particular Regulations.

ARTICLE I.

At every communication of this Grand Chapter, previous to the transaction of any business, the Chapter shall be opened in due form.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of subordinate Chapters, who attend the communication of the Grand Chapter, must appear clothed in their proper jewels.

ARTICLE III.

Every officer of a Chapter under this jurisdiction, who, as such, has a right to sit and vote in this Grand Chapter, shall, in case of his absence at any communication, have a right to be represented therein by his proxy duly appointed; provided, however, such proxy be not under the degree of Royal

Arch Mason, and that he be a member of a Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter.

The form of letters of proxy shall be in substance as follows, viz.:

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts:

BE IT KNOWN,

That pursuant to the authority given me by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, I, ——, of ——— Chapter, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint Companion ———, of ——, to represent me at the meetings of said Grand Chapter, to be holden at Boston, on the — day of ——, [or, for the present Masonic year, as the case may be.]

Confirming the acts of said Companion in his capacity aforesaid, I pray that he may enjoy all the privileges and protection to which I am entitled.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this — day of ——, A. L. ——.

ARTICLE IV.

Every member of this Grand Chapter, and representative thereto, must appear properly clothed with the badges of a Royal Arch Mason.

ARTICLE V.

No person shall be admitted as a visitor at any communication of this Grand Chapter, unless some member of said Grand Chapter, or Companion of right sitting in the same, will of his own knowledge declare that such person desirous of being admitted has regularly received all the degrees appertaining to Royal Arch Masonry, conferred by the Chapters under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VI.

Whereas it is essentially important that the mode of working in the several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter should be uniformly the same: therefore, the better to accomplish this desirable object, it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, or presiding officer at every communication thereof, to give, or cause to be given, the Mark and Royal Arch Lectures, that the officers of the several Chapters may be fully acquainted therewith, and dispense the knowledge of them in a uniform and regular manner in their several Chapters.

ARTICLE VII.

The accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary, at the annual communication in December, shall be audited, and for their services they shall receive such compensation as this Grand Chapter may deem adequate.

ARTICLE VIII.

Every return from the subordinate Chapters shall specify the time when each candidate was marked, passed, acknowledged, and exalted; and each Chapter shall pay to this Grand Chapter, for every candidate admitted to the degree of Mark Master, one dollar; to the degree of Past Master, fifty cents; to the degree of Most Excellent Master, fifty cents; and to the degree of Royal Arch Mason, one dollar.

ARTICLE IX.

When any member of a Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be accused of any offence which, if proved against him, would subject him to suspension or expulsion, the proceedings in the premises shall be conducted agreeably to the following rules:

1*st.* The accusations shall be made in writing, under the signature of a Royal Arch Mason, and given in charge to the Secretary of the Chapter, who, under the direction of the High Priest, shall serve, or cause the accused to be served with an attested copy of the charges, fourteen days at least previous to the time appointed for his examination: *provided* the residence of the offending Companion shall be known, and shall be within the distance of twenty miles of the place where the Chapter is located. If the residence of the accused be at a greater distance than twenty miles, but within the State, then and in that case a summons to appear and show cause, forwarded to him by mail or

other conveyance, twenty days at least before the time of trial, shall be considered sufficient service. If the residence of the delinquent be unknown, the Chapter may proceed to examine the charges *ex parte.*

2*d.* The examination of the charges shall be had in a Chapter specially notified and convened for the purpose,— at which no visitors shall be admitted, except as counsel or witnesses.

3*d.* The accused may select his own counsel, and the witnesses shall testify on their honor; hearsay evidence shall be excluded.

4*th.* The question, "Is the accused guilty or not guilty?" shall be distinctly put to each member of the Chapter by name, commencing with the youngest member. The answer shall be given standing, and in a distinct and audible manner. The Secretary shall record the answer as given.

5*th.* If the verdict be suspension or expulsion, the proceedings shall be sent up at the ensuing meeting of this Grand Chapter for examination.

6*th*. A sentence of expulsion shall not take effect until confirmed by this Grand Chapter; but shall operate as a suspension of the delinquent.

7*th*. A Companion feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of a subordinate Chapter shall have the right of an appeal to this Grand Chapter, he having given due and timely notice to the subordinate Chapter of his intention so to appeal from its decision.

8*th*. Whenever this Grand Chapter shall reverse or abrogate the decision of a subordinate Chapter, suspending or expelling a Companion, and shall restore him to the benefits and privileges of Masonry, he shall not thereby be restored to membership within the body from which he was suspended or expelled, without its unanimous consent.

9*th*. In all respects, other than those here specified, the proceedings shall be conducted agreeably to the regulations of ancient craft Masonry.

ARTICLE X.

Each Chapter under this jurisdiction shall have a seal, which shall be affixed to all communications made to this Grand Chapter, and to all credentials which may be given by such Chapter to any member thereof.

ARTICLE XI.

Whenever the by-laws of any Chapter require the names of candidates to be inserted in the notifications, a dispensation from a Grand Officer does not render such insertion unnecessary.

ARTICLE XII.

All motions made in the Grand Chapter, the determinations of which may require to be recorded, shall be handed in writing to the Secretary, who shall present them to the presiding officer for the time being.

ARTICLE XIII.

No vote of the Grand Chapter shall be reconsidered by a less number of voters than were present at the passing of the same.

ARTICLE XIV.

There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Funds of the Grand Chapter, consisting of the Grand Treasurer, and two Companions to be elected by ballot for the term of three years, and to constitute, during that time, a permanent part of the Board; and provided a vacancy shall occur by death, resignation, or any cause, it shall be reported to the Grand Chapter at the next quarterly communication, at which time the vacancy shall be filled. The Board of Trustees thus constituted shall be styled, "The Trustees of the Funds of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts."

ARTICLE XV.

This Constitution shall not be altered or amended, unless such alteration or amendment be proposed, in writing, at one regular meeting of the Grand Chapter, and at a subsequent regular meeting receive the approval of two-thirds of the members then present.

OBSERVATIONS

CONCERNING

The Order of High Priesthood,

AND THE

CEREMONY OF CONFERRING THE SAME.

The Order of High Priesthood cannot be conferred on any Companion except him who shall have been duly elected to preside as High Priest in a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. This Order should not be conferred when a less number than three duly qualified High Priests are present. Whenever the ceremony is performed with a solemnity appropriate to the degree, the assistance of at least nine High Priests, who have received it, is requisite.

Though the High Priest of every regular Royal Arch Chapter, having himself been properly qualified, can confer the Order

under the preceding limitation as to number, yet it is desirable, when circumstances will permit, that it should be conferred by the Massachusetts Convention of High Priests. This Convention was instituted for the purpose of conferring this degree in a style suitable to its dignity and importance. All the proceedings of the Convention are approved and sanctioned by the Grand Chapter.

It is recommended to every candidate desirous of receiving the Order of High Priesthood, to make application to the President of the Convention. The President, on receiving notice, will direct the Secretary to call a meeting of the Convention at such time as may suit the convenience of the applicant. When the Convention meets and is duly organized, a certificate of the due election of the candidate into the office of High Priest must be produced. This certificate is signed by his predecessor in office, attested by the Secretary of the Chapter. On examination of this certificate, the qualifications of the candidate for admission to this honorable and

sublime degree of Masonry are ascertained. The solemn ceremonies of conferring the Order upon him then ensue. When ended, the presiding officer directs the Secretary of the Convention to make a record of the proceedings, and return it to the Secretary of the Grand Chapter, to be by him laid before the Grand High Priest, for the information of all whom it may concern. The Convention of High Priests is then closed in due form.

The Secretary of the Grand Chapter keeps a roll of all who have been admitted to the Order of High Priesthood.

Any Companion, who has received this degree, may become a member of the Convention by complying with its rules and signing the Constitution.

Chapters under the Jurisdiction.

ST. ANDREW'S	Boston.
KING CYRUS	Newburyport.
WASHINGTON	Salem.
ADONIRAM	New Bedford.
MORNING STAR	Springfield.
FRANKLIN	Greenfield.
ST. PAUL'S	Boston.
MOUNT ZION	Stoughton.
THOMAS	Fitchburg.
WORCESTER	Worcester.
NORTHAMPTON	Northampton.
CONCORD	Framingham.
MOUNT HOREB	Lowell.
MOUNT LEBANON	Milford.
ST. JOHN'S	East Boston.
CHAPTER OF THE SHEKINAH	Chelsea.
ORIENT	Hyannis.
PENTUCKET	Haverhill.
BERKSHIRE	Pittsfield.
KING SOLOMON'S	Ware.
KEYSTONE	Foxboro'.
MOUNT SINAI	Lawrence.
PILGRIM	Abington.
WAVERLY	Melrose.
ST. MATTHEW'S	South Boston.
HAMPDEN	Palmer.

MYSTIC	MEDFORD.
SUTTON	LYNN.
FALL RIVER	FALL RIVER.
CAMBRIDGE	CAMBRIDGE.
WALTHAM	WALTHAM.
ST. MARK'S	TAUNTON.
MOUNT VERNON	BOSTON.
MOUNT HOLYOKE	HOLYOKE.
CORINTHIAN	ADAMS.
UNION	ATHOL.
ST. STEPHEN'S	DORCHESTER.
MONOTOMY	ARLINGTON.
WEBSTER	WEBSTER.
HOUGHTON	MARLBOROUGH.
ISLE OF THE SEA	NANTUCKET.
PARKER	NATICK.
CHAPTER OF THE SIGNET	CHARLESTOWN.
SAMOSET	PLYMOUTH.
JOSEPH WARREN (U.D.)	PROVINCETOWN.
CLINTON (U.D.)	CLINTON.
NEWTON (U.D.)	NEWTON.
SYLVESTER BAXTER (U.D.)	WEST HARWICH.
SATUCKET (U.D.)	NORTH BRIDGEWATER.

☞ *Communications to the* GRAND CHAPTER *may be made to the* GRAND SECRETARY, *Boston.*

Ceremonies of the Order.

SECTION I.

CONSECRATION OF A NEW CHAPTER.

THE new Chapter will meet at its hall, and open on the Royal Arch Degree; the Grand Officers will meet in an adjoining room, and on being notified by a committee of the new Chapter that its members are ready for their reception, they will proceed to the Chapter room, where being received by the new Chapter with the Grand Honors, the officers of the new Chapter resign their stations to the Grand Officers. A procession is then formed by the Grand Captain of the Host, as follows, which repairs to the Church, or place designated for the performance of the ceremonies.

Grand Captain of the Host.

Sentinel.
Mark Masters, by twos.
Past Masters, by twos.
Most Excellent Masters, by twos.
Royal Arch Masons, triangularly, two in front and one behind.
Members of the new Chapter, triangularly.
Masters of the First and Second Veil.
Master of the Third Veil.
Royal Arch Captain, Principal Sojourner.
Captain of the Host.
Secretary and Treasurer.
One Companion carrying the Pot of Incense.
Four Companions carrying the Ark.
Three Companions carrying lights, triangularly.
Scribe and King.

High Priest.
Grand Sentinel.
Members of the Grand Chapter, triangularly.
Grand Royal Arch Captain.
Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer.
Grand Chaplain, Orator.
Deputy Grand High Priest.
Grand Scribe, Grand King.
Grand High Priest.

On arriving at the church, or place where the ceremonies are to be performed, the procession halts, faces inwards, and the Grand Officers and others pass through. All being seated, the ceremonies commence as follows:

ANTHEM.

PRAYER BY THE GRAND CHAPLAIN.

Almighty and Supreme High Priest of Heaven and Earth! Who is there in heaven but thee? and who upon earth can stand in competition with thee? Thy OMNISCIENT Mind brings all things in review, past, present and to come; thine OMNIPOTENT Arm directs the movements of the vast creation; thine OMNIPRESENT Eye pervades the secret recesses of every heart; thy boundless beneficence supplies us with every comfort and enjoyment; and thine unspeakable perfections and glory surpass the understanding of the children of men! Our Father, who

art in heaven, we invoke thy benediction upon the purposes of our present assembly. May this Chapter be established to thine honor, and consecrated to thy glory; may its officers be endowed with wisdom to discern, and fidelity to pursue, its true interests; and may its members be ever mindful of the duty they owe to their God, the obedience they owe to their superiors, the love they owe to their equals, and the good will they owe to all mankind.

Glory be to God on high!

Response. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. So mote it be. Amen.

ORATION.

The Grand Captain of the Host then forms the new Chapter in front of the Grand High Priest.

The Deputy Grand High Priest says:

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST: A number of Companions, duly instructed in the sublime mysteries, being desirous of promoting the honor, and propagating the principles of the Art, have applied to the Grand Chapter for a Warrant to constitute a new Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, which

having been obtained, they are now assembled for the purpose of being constituted, and having their officers installed in due and ancient form.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST. Let the Warrant of Constitution be read.

GRAND SECRETARY reads it.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST. Companions, do you still approve of the officers as named herein?

COMPANIONS. We do.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST. By virtue of the high powers in me vested, I do form you, my respected Companions, into a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. From henceforth you are authorized and empowered to open and hold a Lodge of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons; and to do and perform all such things as thereunto may appertain; conforming, in all your doings, to the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, and the General Regulations of the State Grand Chapter. And may the God of your Fathers be with you, guide and direct you in all your doings.

The Ark of the Covenant, and the furniture, clothing, jewels, and implements belonging to the Chapter (having been previously placed in the centre, in front of the Grand High Priest) are now uncovered, and the dedication proceeds.

The Grand Chaplain, with the pot of incense in his hands, says:

To our most excellent patron Zerubbabel, we solemnly dedicate this Chapter. May the blessing of our Heavenly High Priest descend and rest upon its members, and may their felicity be immortal. Glory be to God on high!

Response. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

GRAND HIGH PRIEST. Companion Grand Captain of the Host, you will make the Proclamation.

GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE HOST. Companions, I am ordered to proclaim, That this new Chapter is duly constituted and consecrated into a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons by the name of ——— Chapter, under the authority of the Grand Chapter of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This proclamation is made from the East, once, twice, thrice. All interested will take due notice thereof, and govern themselves accordingly.

MUSIC, OR AN ODE.

SECTION II.

INSTALLATION OF THE OFFICERS OF A CHAPTER.

THE Grand High Priest, or other duly-authorized officer, presides; and the Chapter is opened on the Royal Arch Degree. The Grand Captain of the Host, or person acting as such, or a Past High Priest, presents the High Priest elect to the Presiding Officer, and says:

MOST EXCELLENT: I hereby present before you Companion . . . . . , who has been duly elected to serve this Chapter as High Priest for the ensuing masonic year, and who now declares himself ready for installation.

In a new Chapter, the High Priest elect is not required to face the West.*

The High Priest elect then turning and facing the Companions, the Presiding Officer says:

COMPANIONS: You now behold before you Companion . . . . . , who has been elected to serve

* At the installation of the Officers of a new Chapter, the Deputy Grand High Priest then presents the High Priest of the new Chapter to the Grand High Priest, saying:

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST: I present you Companion . . . . . , nominated in the Warrant, to be installed High Priest of this new Chapter. I find him to be skilful in the Royal Art, and attentive to the moral precepts of our forefathers, and have therefore no doubt but he will discharge the duties of his office with fidelity.

this Chapter as Most Excellent High Priest, and who now declares himself ready for installation. If any of you have any reasons to urge why he should not be installed, you will make them known now, or else forever hereafter hold your peace. Hearing no objections, I shall proceed to install him.

The Presiding Officer then addresses him as follows:

MOST EXCELLENT: I feel much satisfaction in performing my duty on the present occasion, by installing you into the office of High Priest of this Chapter. It is an office highly honorable to all those who diligently perform the important duties annexed to it. Your reputed masonic knowledge, however, precludes the necessity of a particular enumeration of those duties. I shall therefore only observe, that by a frequent recurrence to the Constitution and General Regulations, and constant practice of the several sublime Lectures and Charges, you will be best able to fulfil them; and I am confident that the Companions who are chosen to preside with you will give strength to your endeavors, and support to your exertions. I shall now propose certain questions to you relative to the duties of your office, to which I must request your unequivocal answer.

1. Do you solemnly promise that you will redouble your endeavors to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your Companions who have attained this sublime degree?

2. That you will never suffer your Chapter to be opened, unless there be present nine regular Royal Arch Masons?

3. That you will never suffer either more or less than three brethren to be exalted in your Chapter at one and the same time?

4. That you will not exalt any one to this degree who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition; or who has not made a considerable proficiency in the foregoing degrees?

5. That you will promote the general good of our order, and, on all proper occasions, be ready to give and receive instructions, particularly from the General and State Grand Officers?

6. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave, in open Chapter, with the most profound

respect and reverence, as an example to your Companions?

7. That you will not acknowledge or have intercourse with any Chapter that does not work under a constitutional warrant or dispensation?

8. That you will not admit any visitor into your Chapter, who has not been exalted in a Chapter legally constituted, without his being first formally healed?

9. That you will observe and support such by-laws as may be made by your Chapter, in conformity to the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution and the General Regulations of the Grand Chapter?

10. That you will pay respect and due obedience to the instructions of the General and State Grand Officers, particularly relating to the several Lectures and Charges, and will resign the chair to them, severally, when they may visit your Chapter?

11. That you will support and observe the General Grand Royal Arch Constitution, and the

General Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, under whose authority you act?

Do you submit to all these things, and do you promise to observe and practise them faithfully?

Answer. I do.

All then kneel, and the Grand Chaplain offers the following

PRAYER.

Most holy and glorious Lord God, the Great High Priest of Heaven and Earth:

We approach thee with reverence, and implore thy blessing on the Companion appointed to preside over this Chapter, and now prostrate before thee; — fill his heart with thy fear, that his tongue and actions may pronounce thy glory. Make him steadfast in thy service; grant him firmness of mind; animate his heart, and strengthen his endeavors; may he teach thy judgments and thy laws; and may the incense he shall put before thee, upon thine altar, prove an acceptable sacrifice unto thee. Bless him, O Lord, and bless the work of his hands. Accept us in mercy; hear thou from heaven thy dwelling-place, and forgive our transgressions.

Glory be to God on high.

Response. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. So mote it be. Amen.

The Presiding Officer then administers the following obligation to the High Priest elect:

"I, ... , do promise and swear that I will serve this Chapter as High Priest for the time that I have been elected; that I will perform all the duties appertaining to that office to the best of my abilities, and will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of . . . . . and, that of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and the by-laws of this Chapter."

The Grand High Priest will then cause the High Priest to be invested with the clothing and badges of his office, and will address him as follows:

I now invest you with this *Breastplate*, in imitation of that upon which were engraven the names of the twelve tribes, and worn by the High Priest of Israel, which is to teach you that you are always to bear in mind your responsibility to the laws and ordinances of the institution, and that the honor and interests of your Chapter and its members should be always near your heart.

I present you with the Holy Bible, Square, and

Compasses, the three great lights in every degree of masonry. The doctrines contained in this sacred volume create in us a belief in the dispensations of Divine Providence, which belief strengthens our faith, and enables us to ascend the first step of the Grand Masonic Ladder. This faith naturally produes in us a hope of becoming partakers of the promises expressed in this inestimable gift of God to man, which hope enables us to ascend the second step. But the third and last being Charity, comprehends the former, and will continue to exert its influence when Faith shall be lost in sight, and Hope in complete enjoyment.

By the Square and Compasses we are taught to circumscribe our desires, and practise the duties of friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

I now deliver into your hands the Charter under which you are to work; you will receive it as a sacred deposit, and never permit it to be used for any other purposes than those expressed in it.

I present you with the Constitution of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter, the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of this Commonwealth, and also with the By-Laws of your Chapter. You will cause all these to be frequently read and punctually obeyed.

Lastly, I present you with this Mallet, a blow of which will command attention and restore order in the Chapter.

Let the *Mitre* with which you are invested remind you of the dignity of the office you sustain, and its inscription impress upon your mind a sense of your dependence upon God; — that perfection is not given unto man upon earth, and that perfect holiness belongeth alone unto the Lord.

The *various colors* of the *Robes* you wear are emblematical of every grace and virtue which can adorn and beautify the human mind.

In consequence of your cheerful acquiescence with the charges just recited, I now declare you duly installed High Priest of this Chapter, not doubting your determination to support the honor and reputation of our sublime Order.

And now, Most Excellent, permit me, in behalf of the Craft here assembled, to offer you our most sincere congratulation on your accession to the honorable station you now fill. I doubt not you will govern with such order and regularity as to convince your Companions that their partiality has not been misplaced.

Companions of . . . . . Chapter, behold your High Priest. [*They rise and bow, or if the*

installation be not public, salute him with the honors of Royal Arch Masonry.] Recollect that the prosperity of your Chapter will as much depend on your support, assistance and obedience, as on his assiduity, information and wisdom.

Each of the subordinate officers is presented with the same address as is recited above, and the same call is made to the King and Scribe, for objections; the same obligation (with the necessary variation of title) which had been taken by the High Priest, is taken by each of the officers, and the charge is read to him by the Installing Officer, after which the newly-installed officer assumes his appropriate station in the Chapter.

CHARGE TO THE KING.

EXCELLENT COMPANION: The important station to which you are elected in this Chapter requires from you exemplary conduct; its duties demand your most assiduous attention; you are to second and support your chief in all the requirements of his office; and should casualties at any time prevent his attendance, you are to succeed him in the performance of his duties.

Your badge (*the Level surmounted by a Crown*), should remind you that, although you are the representative of a King, and exalted by office above your Companions, yet that you remain upon a level with them, as respects your duty to God, to your neighbor, and to yourself; that you are equally bound with them, to be obedient to the laws and ordinances of the institution; to be charitable, humane, and just, and to seek every occasion of doing good.

Your office teaches a striking lesson of humility. The institutions of political society teach us to consider the king as the chief of created beings, and that the first duty of his subjects is to obey his mandates: — but the institutions of our sublime degrees, by placing the King in a situation subordinate to the High Priest, teach us that our duty to God is paramount to all other duties, and should ever claim the priority of our obedience to man; and that however strongly we may be bound to obey the laws of civil society, yet that those laws, to be just, should never intermeddle with matters of conscience, nor dictate articles of faith.

The *Scarlet Robe*, an emblem of imperial dignity, should remind you of the paternal concern you should ever feel for the welfare of your Chapter, and the *fervency* and *zeal* with which you should endeavor to promote its prosperity.

In presenting to you the *Crown*, which is an emblem of royalty, I would remind you that to reign sovereign in the hearts and affections of men must be far more grateful to a generous and benev-

olent mind than to rule over their lives and fortunes; and that, to enable you to enjoy this pre-eminence with honor and satisfaction, you must subject your own passions and prejudices to the dominion of reason and charity.

You are entitled to the second seat in the council of your Companions. Let the bright example of your illustrious predecessor in the Grand Council at Jerusalem stimulate you to the faithful discharge of your duties; and when the King of Kings shall summon you into his immediate presence, from his hand may you receive a *crown of glory*, which shall never fade away.

CHARGE TO THE SCRIBE.

Excellent Companion: The office of Scribe, to which you are elected, is very important and respectable. In the absence of your superior officers, you are bound to succeed them, and to perform their duties. The purposes of the institution ought never to suffer for want of intelligence in its proper officers; you will therefore perceive the necessity there is of your possessing such qualifications as will enable you to accomplish those duties which are incumbent upon you, in your appropriate station, as

well as those which may occasionally devolve on you by the absence of your superiors.

The *Purple Robe*, with which you are invested, is an emblem of *union*, and is calculated to remind you that the harmony and unanimity of the Chapter should be your constant aim; and to this end you are studiously to avoid all occasions of giving offence, or countenancing anything that may create divisions or dissensions. You are, by all means in your power, to endeavor to establish a permanent union and good understanding among all orders and degrees of Masonry; and as the glorious sun, at its meridian height, dispels the mist and clouds which obscure the horizon, so may your exertions tend to dissipate the gloom of jealousy and discord, whenever they may appear.

Your badge (*a Plumb-rule surmounted by the Turban*) is an emblem of rectitude and vigilance; and while you stand as a watchman on the tower, to guard your Companions against the approach of those enemies of human felicity, *intemperance* and *excess*, let this faithful monitor ever remind you to walk uprightly in your station; admonishing and animating your Companions to fidelity and industry while at labor, and to temperance and moderation while at refreshment. And when the Great Watch-

man of Israel, whose eye never slumbers nor sleeps, shall relieve you from your post on earth, may He permit you in heaven to participate in that refreshment enjoyed by saints and angels forever in his presence.

CHARGE TO THE CHAPLAIN.

EXCELLENT AND REVEREND COMPANION: You are appointed Chaplain of this Chapter; and I now invest you with this circular jewel, the badge of your office. It is emblematical of eternity, and reminds us that here is not our abiding place. Your inclination will undoubtedly conspire with your duty, when you perform in the Chapter those solemn services which created beings should constantly render to their infinite CREATOR, and which, when offered by one whose holy profession is "to point to heaven and lead the way," may, by refining our morals, strengthening our virtues, and purifying our minds, prepare us for admission into the society of those above, whose happiness will be as endless as it is perfect.

CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE HOST.

COMPANION: The office with which you are intrusted is of high importance, and demands your

most zealous consideration. The preservation of the most essential traits of our ancient customs, usages, and landmarks are within your province, and it is indispensably necessary that the part assigned to you, in the immediate practice of our rites and ceremonies, should be perfectly understood and correctly administered.

Your office corresponds with that of Marshal, or Master of Ceremonies. You are to superintend all processions of your Chapter, when moving as a distinct body, either in public or private; and as the world can only judge of our private discipline by our public deportment, you will be careful that the utmost order and decorum be observed on all such occasions. You will ever be attentive to the commands of your chief, and always near at hand to see them duly executed. I invest you with the badge of your office, and presume that you will give to your duties all that study and attention which their importance demands.

CHARGE TO THE PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER.

COMPANION: The office confided to you, though subordinate in degree, is equal in importance to any in the Chapter, that of your chief alone excepted. Your office corresponds to that of *Senior Deacon*

in the preparatory degrees. Among the duties required of you, the preparation and introduction of candidates are not the least. As in our intercourse with the world, experience teaches that first impressions are often the most durable, and the most difficult to eradicate, — so it is of great importance, in all cases, that those impressions should be correct and just; hence it is essential that the officer, who brings the blind by a way that they know not, and leads them in paths that they have not known, should always be well qualified to make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.

Your *robe of office* is an emblem of humility, and teaches that in the prosecution of a laudable undertaking, we should never decline taking any part that may be assigned us, although it may be the most difficult or dangerous.

The *rose-colored tessellated Border*, adorning the robe, is an emblem of ardor and perseverance, and signifies that when we have engaged in a virtuous course, notwithstanding all the impediments, hardships, and trials we may be destined to encounter, we should endure them all with fortitude, and ardently persevere unto the end, — resting assured of receiving, at the termination of our labors, a noble and glorious reward. Your past exertions

will be considered as a pledge of your future assiduity in the faithful discharge of your duties.

CHARGE TO THE ROYAL ARCH CAPTAIN.

Companion: The well-known duties of your station require but little elucidation. Your office in the preparatory degrees corresponds with that of *Junior Deacon*. It is your province, conjointly with the Captain of the Host, to attend the examination of all visitors, and to take care that none are permitted to enter the Chapter but such as have *travelled the rugged path* of trial, and evinced their title to our favor and friendship. You will be attentive to obey the commands of the Captain of the Host, during *the introduction of strangers among* the workmen; so that should they be permitted to pass your post, they may by him be introduced into the presence of the Grand Council.

The *White Banner*, intrusted to your care, is emblematical of that purity of heart and rectitude of conduct which ought to actuate all those who pass the white veil of the sanctuary. I give it to you strongly in charge, never to suffer any one to pass your post, without the *signet of truth*.

I present you the badge of your office, in expec-

tation of your performing your duties with intelligence, assiduity, and propriety.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MASTER OF THE THIRD VEIL.

COMPANION: I present you with the *Scarlet Banner*, which is the ensign of your office, and with a sword to protect and defend the same. The rich and beautiful color of your banner is emblematical of *fervency* and *zeal;* it is the appropriate color of the Royal Arch Degree; it admonishes us that we should be fervent in the exercise of our devotions to God, and zealous in our endeavors to promote the happiness of man.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MASTER OF THE SECOND VEIL.

COMPANION: I invest you with the *Purple Banner*, which is the ensign of your office, and arm you with a sword to enable you to maintain its honor.

The color of your banner is produced by a due mixture of *blue* and *scarlet;* the former of which is the characteristic color of the *symbolic* or *first three degrees of Masonry*, and the latter, that of the *Royal Arch Degree*. It is an emblem of *union*, and is the characteristic color of the intermediate degrees. It admonishes us to cultivate and improve that spirit of union and harmony, between the brethren of the symbolic degrees and the Companions of the sublime degrees, which should ever distinguish the members of a society founded upon the principles of everlasting truth and universal philanthropy.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MASTER OF THE FIRST VEIL.

COMPANION: I invest you with the *Blue Banner*, which is the ensign of your office, and a sword for its defence and protection. The color of your banner is one of the most durable and beautiful in nature. It is the appropriate color, adopted and worn by our ancient brethren of the three symbolic degrees, and is the *peculiar characteristic* of an institution which has stood the test of ages, and which is as much distinguished by the durability of its materials or principles as by the beauty of its superstructure. It is an emblem of universal *friendship* and *benevolence;* and instructs us that, in the mind of a Mason, those virtues should be as expansive as the blue arch of heaven itself.

CHARGE TO THE THREE MASTERS OF THE VEILS, AS OVERSEERS.

COMPANIONS: Those who are placed as Overseers of any work should be well qualified to judge of its beauties and defects. They should be capable of estimating the former, and amending the latter. This consideration should induce you to cultivate and improve all those qualifications with which you are already endowed, as well as to persevere in your endeavors to acquire those in which you are deficient. Let the various *colors* of the *banners* committed to your charge admonish you to the exercise of the several virtues of which they are emblematic; and you are to enjoin the practice of those virtues upon all who shall present themselves, or the *work* of their hands, for your *inspection*. Let no work receive your approbation but such as is calculated to adorn and strengthen the masonic edifice. Be industrious and faithful in practising and disseminating a knowledge of the *true and perfect work*, which alone can stand the test of the *Grand Overseer's Square*, in the great day of trial and retribution. Then, although every *rod* should become a *serpent*, and every serpent an enemy to this Institution, yet shall their utmost exertions to destroy its reputation, or sap its foundation, become as impotent as the

leprous hand, or as *water spilled upon the ground*, which cannot be gathered up again.

CHARGE TO THE TREASURER.

COMPANION: You are elected Treasurer of this Chapter, and I have the pleasure of investing you with the badge of your office. The qualities which should recommend a Treasurer are *accuracy* and *fidelity;* accuracy, in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements; fidelity, in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Chapter that may be placed in his hands, and rendering a just account of the same, whenever he is called upon for that purpose. I presume that your respect for the institution, your attachment to the interests of your Chapter, and your regard for a good name, which is better than precious ointment, will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

CHARGE TO THE SECRETARY.

COMPANION: I with pleasure invest you with your badge as Secretary of this Chapter. The qualities which should recommend a Secretary are *promptitude* in issuing the notifications and orders of his superior officers, *punctuality* in attending the

convocations of the Chapter, *correctness* in recording their proceedings, *judgment* in discriminating between what is proper and what is improper to be committed to writing, *regularity* in making his annual returns to the Grand Chapter, *integrity* in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands, and *fidelity* in paying the same over into the hands of the Treasurer. The possession of these good qualities, I presume, has designated you as a suitable candidate for this important office; and I cannot entertain a doubt that you will discharge its duties beneficially to the Chapter, and honorably to yourself. And when you shall have completed the record of your transactions here below, and finished the term of your probation, may you be admitted into the celestial Grand Chapter of saints and angels, and find your name *recorded* in the *book of life eternal*.

CHARGE TO THE STEWARDS.

COMPANIONS: You being appointed Stewards of this Chapter, I with pleasure invest you with the badges of your office. It is your province to see that every necessary preparation is made for the convenience and accommodation of the Chapter, previous to the time appointed for meeting. You are to see that

the clothing, implements, and furniture of each degree respectively are properly disposed, and in suitable array for use, whenever they may be required, and that they are secured, and proper care taken of them, when the business of the Chapter is over. You are to be frugal and prudent in your disbursements, and to be careful that no extravagance or waste is committed in your department; and when you have faithfully fulfilled your stewardship here below, may you receive from heaven the happy greeting of "Well done, good and faithful servants."

CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL.

COMPANION: You are appointed Sentinel of this Chapter, and I invest you with the badge and this implement of your office. As the sword is placed in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him effectually to guard against the approach of all *cowans and eavesdroppers*, and suffer none to pass or repass but such as are *duly qualified*, so it should morally serve as a constant admonition to us to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, to post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions, thereby excluding every unqualified and unworthy thought, word and deed,

preserving consciences void of offence towards God and towards man.

As the first application from visitors for admission into the Chapter is generally made to the Sentinel at the door, your station will often present you to the observation of strangers; it is, therefore, essentially necessary that he who sustains the office with which you are intrusted should be a man of good morals, steady habits, strict discipline, temperate, affable and discreet. I trust that a just regard for the honor and reputation of the institution will ever induce you to perform with fidelity the trust reposed in you; and when the door of this earthly tabernacle shall be closed, may you find an abundant entrance through the gates into the temple and city of our God.

The Grand High Priest then delivers the following

ADDRESS TO THE HIGH PRIEST.

MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION: Having been honored with the free suffrages of the members of this Chapter, you are elected to the most important office which it is within their power to bestow. This expression of their esteem and respect should draw from you corresponding sensations; and your

demeanor should be such as to repay the honor they have so conspicuously conferred upon you, by an honorable and faithful discharge of your duties. The station you are called to fill is important, not only as it respects the correct practice of our rites and ceremonies, and the internal economy of the Chapter over which you preside, but the public reputation of the Institution will be generally found to rise or fall according to the skill, fidelity, and discretion with which its concerns are managed, and in proportion as the characters and conduct of its principal officers are estimable or censurable.

You have accepted a trust to which is attached a weight of responsibility that will require all your efforts to discharge honorably to yourself and satisfactorily to the Chapter. You are to see that your officers are capable and faithful in the exercise of their offices. Should they lack ability, you are expected to supply their defects: you are to watch carefully the progress of their performances, and to see that the long-established customs of the Institution suffer no derangement in their hands. You are to have a careful eye over the general conduct of the Chapter; see that due order and subordination are observed on all occasions; that the members are properly instructed; that due solem-

nity be observed in the practice of our rites; that no improper levity be permitted at any time, but more especially at the *introduction of strangers among the workmen.*

In fine, you are to be an example to your officers and members, which they need not hesitate to follow; thus securing to yourself the favor of Heaven, and the applause of your Brethren and Companions.

ADDRESS TO THE OFFICERS GENERALLY.

COMPANIONS IN OFFICE: Precept and example should ever advance with equal pace. Those moral duties which you are required to teach unto others, you should never neglect to practise yourselves.

Do you desire that the demeanor of your equals and inferiors towards you should be marked with deference and respect? Be sure that you omit no opportunity of furnishing them with examples in your own conduct towards your superiors. Do you desire to obtain instruction from those who are more wise or better informed than yourselves? Be sure that you are always ready to impart of your knowledge to those within your sphere who stand in need of and are entitled to receive it. Do you desire distinction among your Companions? Be sure that your claims to preferment are founded upon superior

attainments; let no ambitious passion be suffered to induce you to envy or supplant a Companion who may be considered as better qualified for promotion than yourselves; but rather let a laudable emulation induce you to strive to excel each other in improvement and discipline; ever remembering that he who faithfully performs his duty, even in a subordinate or private station, is as justly entitled to esteem and respect as he who is invested with supreme authority.

CHARGE TO THE CHAPTER.

COMPANIONS: The exercise and management of the sublime degrees of Masonry in your Chapter hitherto are so highly appreciated, and the good reputation of the Chapter so well established, that I must presume these considerations alone, were there no others of greater magnitude, would be sufficient to induce you to preserve and perpetuate this valuable and honorable character. But when to these is added the pleasure which every philanthropic heart must feel in doing good, in promoting good order, in diffusing light and knowledge, in cultivating masonic and Christian charity, which are the great objects of this sublime Institution, I cannot doubt that your future conduct, and that of your succes-

sors, will be calculated still to increase the lustre of your justly-esteemed reputation.

May your *Chapter* become *beautiful* as the *temple*, *peaceful* as the *ark*, and *sacred* as its *most holy place*. May your oblations of *piety* and *praise* be *grateful* as the *incense*, your love *warm* as its *flame*, and your charity diffusive as its fragrance. May your hearts be *pure* as the *altar*, and your conduct *acceptable* as the *offering*. May the exercises of your *charity* be as constant as the returning wants of the distressed *widow* and helpless *orphan*. May the approbation of Heaven be your encouragement, and the testimony of a good conscience your support; may you be endowed with every good and perfect gift, while *travelling* the *rugged path* of life, and finally be *admitted within the veil* of heaven, to the full enjoyment of life eternal. So mote it be. Amen.

Grand High Priest: Companion Grand Captain of the Host, you will make the customary proclamation.

The Grand Captain of the Host then makes the following proclamation:

In the name of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of the State of . . . . , I hereby proclaim the

officers of . . . . . Chapter No. . . . . , to be duly installed into their respective offices, with the private Grand Honors of Royal Arch Masonry, by three times three.

The private Grand Honors are then given.

If the installation takes place in public, the expression will be "with the public Grand Honors of Masonry, by three times three," and the public Grand Honors will be given.

SECTION III.

INSTALLATION OF THE OFFICERS OF A GRAND CHAPTER.

At the time appointed for the Installation, the Grand Chapter being opened in the Royal Arch Degree, the chair must be taken by some Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest; or, if none be present, by some Past Grand Officer, who is or has been a High Priest.

The highest Grand or Past Grand Officer present then introduces the Grand High Priest elect, divested of all the jewels and robes of his office, to the Installing Officer, saying:

Most Excellent: I hereby present before you Companion . . . . . , who, having been duly elected Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons of . . . . . , now declares himself ready for installation.

The Grand High Priest elect then turning and facing the Companions, the Installing Officer says:

Companions: You now behold before you Companion . . . . . , who has been duly elected to preside over you as your Grand High Priest, and who now declares himself ready for installation. If any of you have any reasons to urge why he should not be installed, you will make your objections known now, or else forever hereafter hold your peace.

If no objections are made, he will continue to say:

Hearing no objections, I shall proceed to install him.

The Installing Officer then administers the following obligation of office — all the Companions standing:

I, ... , do promise and swear that I will serve as Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Masons of . . . . . for the term for which I have been elected, and will perform all the duties of that office to the best of my abilities, and will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of . . . . . , and that of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. So help me God.

The Grand Chaplain shall then offer the following

PRAYER.

Most holy and glorious Lord God, the Great High Priest of Heaven and Earth: we approach thee with reverence, and implore thy blessing on the Companion appointed to preside over our ancient Fraternity; — fill his heart with thy fear, that his tongue and actions may pronounce thy will; make him steadfast in thy service; grant him firmness of mind and kindness of disposition; teach him to rule his brethren, not with a rod of iron, but with justice

and equity; animate his heart, and strengthen his endeavors to do good. May he inculcate thy judgments and thy laws, and do all that his high office requires, with an eye single to thy glory and the good of the Craft! Bless him, and bless those thou hast put under him; and grant that when we shall have finished the work of this earthly temple of our bodies, we may be admitted to the glories of that second temple of the spirit, eternal in the heavens.

Glory be to God on high.

Response by all the Companions.

Response. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. So mote it be.

The Installing Officer will then invest the Grand High Priest elect with the robes and jewels of his office, after which he will deliver him the following

CHARGE.

MOST EXCELLENT: By the voice of your Companions, you have been chosen to occupy the most important and the most honorable office in their power to bestow; and to me has been intrusted the pleasing duty of investing you with its insignia.

You have been too long a member of our ancient and honorable Craft to require now any instructions

Office of the Grand Secretary,

Boston, October 1874.

AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO SEPTEMBER, 1874.

Add to ARTICLE VIII.

Before a Charter for a new Chapter shall be issued by this Grand Body, the Grand High Priest shall be furnished with satisfactory evidence that the petitioners thereof intend to become members of the same, and they shall present dimits from the Chapter of their affiliation, or if they do not hold membership in any Chapter they shall present satisfactory certificates of their standing as Royal Arch Masons; and before they shall be entitled to the privileges of membership in the new Chapter, they must have signed the By-Laws thereof. And any one neglecting this duty for the space of six months, shall be subject to ballot for membership in the same manner as is usual for Companions coming by dimit.

Article xi. now reads as follows:—

ARTICLE XI.

"The several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall pay for the support thereof, into the hands of the Grand Treasurer, annually, the sum of six dollars; and also three dollars for every Candidate who shall be exalted in such Chapter, and they shall be entitled to one diploma for each Candidate exalted; and for each *additional* Diploma, they shall pay to the Grand Secretary, for the benefit of the Grand Chapter, the sum of one dollar."

Add to ARTICLE XXII.

And said proxies shall not represent more than one Chapter at any one Convocation.

AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE PARTICULAR REGULATIONS OF THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF MASSACHUSETTS TO SEPTEMBER, 1874.

ARTICLE III. was amended Sept. 10, 1872, and the first paragraph of that Article now reads as follows:—

"Every officer of a Chapter under this jurisdiction, who as such, has a right to sit and vote in this Grand Chapter shall, in case of his absence at any communication, have a right to be represented therein by his proxy, duly appointed; provided, however, such proxy shall be a member in good standing of the Chapter which he is thus commissioned to represent."

(The rest of the Article reads as before.)

ARTICLE VI. was amended March 12, 1872, and now reads as follows:—

ARTICLE VI.

Whereas it is essentially important that the mode of working in the several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter should be uniformly the same; therefore, the better to accomplish this desirable object, it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, to cause the Grand Lecturers, with such assistants as they may require, to rehearse the Lectures and exemplify the work of the several Chapter degrees annually, on the day of the annual meeting in December, that the officers of the several Chapters may be fully acquainted therewith, and dispense the knowledge of them in a uniform and regular manner in their several Chapters.

ARTICLE VIII. was amended March 10, 1874, and now reads as follows:—

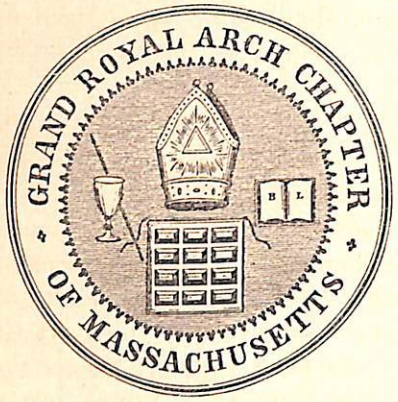
ARTICLE VIII.

Every return from the subordinate Chapters shall specify the time when each Candidate was marked, passed, acknowledged and exalted; and each Chapter shall pay to this Grand Chapter, for every Candidate admitted to the degree of Mark Master, three dollars; and for any Companion having received a portion of the degrees in a sister jurisdiction, fifty cents for the Past Master's degree, fifty cents for the Most Excellent Master's degree, and one dollar for the Royal Arch degree.

The following addition to the *Particular Regulations* was adopted March 11, 1873:—

The District Deputy Grand High Priests shall be required to make their Annual Official Visits during the months of September, October and November; they shall see that the returns are properly made out, and collect the amount due thereon from each Chapter, and pay all monies so collected to the Grand Treasurer, on or before the first day of December in each year.

The District Deputy Grand High Priests shall each be entitled to one vote, and shall be a Past High Priest of a Subordinate Chapter, in good standing, to entitle him to be so appointed.



Attest:—

J. H. Thomas Jr.

Grand Secretary.

in relation to the duties of your office; and I do not doubt that you will be constant and regular in your attendance on the convocations of the Grand Chapter; watching with fidelity and diligence the conduct of the subordinate bodies within your jurisdiction; paying punctual attention to the Constitution of our Order, and requiring a due obedience to it from every member; and in all things, making the glory of the Grand High Priest of the universe, and the good of the Craft, the chief objects of your regard.

The ancient landmarks of the Order, by which we are distinguished from the rest of the world, are peculiarly intrusted to your care; and it therefore becomes your most sacred duty to see that, during your administration, not the least of them may be removed.

From our knowledge of your zeal and ability, we feel confident that you will discharge the duties of this important station in such a manner as will greatly redound to the honor of yourself, as well as of the Fraternity over whom you have been elected to preside.

Let the *Mitre* with which you are invested remind you of the dignity of the office you sustain, and its inscription impress upon your mind a sense of your dependence upon God; — that perfection is

not given unto man upon earth, and that perfect holiness belongeth alone unto the Lord.

The *Breastplate*, with which you are decorated, in imitation of that upon which were engraven the names of the twelve tribes, and worn by the High Priest of Israel, is to teach you that you are always to bear in mind your responsibility to the laws and ordinances of the Institution, and that the honor and interests of our Order and its members should be always near your heart.

The *various colors* of the *Robes* you wear are emblematical of every grace and virtue which can adorn and beautify the human mind, whose cultivation and constant practice are as necessary to your own present and future happiness as they are, by the example they will afford, to the prosperity of the Craft over whom you are placed.

You will now assume your seat in the East, and instruct your subordinates in the duties which they are respectively required to discharge.

After he has taken his seat in the East, the Grand Captain of the Host will say:

COMPANIONS: In the name of the most High God, I do hereby proclaim Companion . . . . . Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch

Masons of . . . . . with the Grand Honors of Masonry, by three times three.

The Grand Honors of Royal Arch Masonry are then given. The Deputy Grand High Priest is then presented to the Grand High Priest in the same way, and after taking a similar obligation, the Grand High Priest delivers the following

CHARGE TO THE MOST EXCELLENT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIEST.

MOST EXCELLENT: The station to which you have been called by your Companions is one of great dignity and importance. In many cases, your powers and prerogatives are coextensive with those of your chief; and at all times you are, if he be present, to assist him with your counsel and co-operation, and in his absence, to preside over the Craft. But while your powers and privileges are thus extensive, remember that they bring with them a heavy share of responsibility. The honor that has been conferred upon you, and the trust that has been reposed in you, demand a corresponding fidelity and attachment to the interests of those to whose kindness and confidence you are indebted for your official elevation.

The signification of the *Robes* you wear, you have already heard explained. May the symbolic lessons

which they convey be deeply impressed upon your mind and heart, and ever influence your conduct.

The Grand King is then presented in the following words:

MOST EXCELLENT: I here present before you Companion . . . . . , who has been duly elected to serve this Grand Chapter as Grand King, and who now declares himself ready for installation.

The Grand King elect then turning and facing the Companions, the Grand High Priest says:

COMPANIONS: You now behold before you Companion . . . . . , who has been duly elected to serve this Grand Chapter as Right Excellent Grand King, and who now declares himself ready for installation. If any of you have any reasons to urge why he should not be installed, you will make them known now, or else forever hereafter hold your peace.

If no objections are made, he will say:

Hearing no objections, I shall proceed to install him.

The Grand High Priest will then administer the following obligation:

I, ... , do promise and swear that I will serve this Grand Chapter as Right Excellent Grand

King, for the time for which I have been elected; that I will perform all the duties appertaining to that office to the best of my abilities, and will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of . . . . . , and that of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. So help me God.

The Grand High Priest will then cause the Grand King to be invested with the robes and jewels of his office, and deliver to him the following

CHARGE TO THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND KING.

RIGHT EXCELLENT COMPANION: The important station to which you have been elected requires from you exemplary conduct, and its duties demand your most assiduous attention. In the absence of the Grand High Priest and his Deputy, you are to preside; in their presence, you are to strengthen and support the authority of your chief, and to aid him by your counsel and advice.

The *Scarlet Robe*, an emblem of royal dignity, should remind you of the paternal concern you should ever feel for our Institution, and the fervency and zeal with which you should endeavor to promote its prosperity.

In presenting to you the *Crown*, which is an emblem of royalty, I would remind you that to

reign sovereign in the hearts and affections of men must be far more grateful to a generous and benevolent mind than to rule over their lives and fortunes; and that to enable you to enjoy this pre-eminence with honor and satisfaction, you must subject your own passions and prejudices to the dominion of reason and charity.

The remaining officers are introduced and obligated in the same way, after which each receives his special charge, as follows:

CHARGE TO THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND SCRIBE.

RIGHT EXCELLENT COMPANION: The office of Grand Scribe, to which you are elected, is very important and respectable. In the absence of your superior officers, you are bound to succeed them, and to perform their duties. The purposes of the Institution ought never to suffer for want of intelligence in its proper officers; you will therefore perceive the necessity there is of your possessing such qualifications as will enable you to accomplish those duties which are incumbent upon you, in your appropriate station, as well as those which may occasionally devolve on you, by the absence of your superiors.

The *Purple Robe*, with which you are invested,

is an emblem of *union*, and is calculated to remind you that the harmony and unanimity of the Order should be your constant aim; and to this end you are studiously to avoid all occasions of giving offence, or countenancing anything that may create divisions or dissensions. You are, by all means in your power, to endeavor to establish a permanent union and good understanding among all orders and degrees of Masonry; and as the glorious sun, at its meridian height, dispels the mist and clouds which obscure the horizon, so may your exertions tend to dissipate the gloom of jealousy and discord whenever they may appear.

CHARGE TO THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND TREASURER.

RIGHT EXCELLENT COMPANION: You have been elected to the responsible office of Grand Treasurer, and I now invest you with the badge of your office.

It is your duty to receive all moneys due the Grand Chapter, from the hands of the Grand Secretary; make due entries of the same, and pay them out by order of the Grand High Priest, and with the consent and approbation of the Grand Chapter. The office to which you have been elected embraces an important trust, and the choice of you by your

Companions is an evidence of the high opinion they entertain of your fidelity and discretion.

CHARGE TO THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND SECRETARY.

RIGHT EXCELLENT COMPANION: You have been elected to the important office of Grand Secretary, and I now invest you with the jewel of your office.

It is your duty to receive all moneys due the Grand Chapter, and pay them over to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same; to observe all the proceedings of the Grand Chapter, and to make a true record of all things proper to be written. You are also the official organ of the Grand Chapter, and in that capacity will conduct its various correspondence, and act as the medium of intercourse between the Fraternity and their presiding officer. In the discharge of these extensive duties, let your carriage and behavior be marked with that promptitude and discretion that will at once reflect credit on yourself and honor on the body whom you represent.

CHARGE TO THE RIGHT REVEREND GRAND CHAPLAIN.

RIGHT REVEREND COMPANION: The sacred position of Grand Chaplain has been intrusted to your

care, and I now invest you with the jewel of your office.

In the discharge of your duties, you will be required to conduct the devotional exercises of our Grand Convocations, and to perform the sacred functions of your holy calling at our public ceremonies. Though Masonry be not religion, it is emphatically religion's handmaid; and I am sure that, in ministering at its altar, the services you may perform will lose nothing of their vital importance, because they are practised in that spirit of universal tolerance which distinguishes our institution. The doctrines of morality and virtue which you are accustomed to inculcate to the world, as the minister of God, will form the appropriate lessons which you are expected to communicate to your Companions. The profession which you have chosen as your lot in life is the best guaranty that you will discharge the duties of your present appointment with steadfastness and perseverance in well-doing.

CHARGE TO THE EXCELLENT GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE HOST.

EXCELLENT COMPANION: The office with which you have been intrusted is of great importance, and requires much skill and attention for the faithful

discharge of its duties, which are those of a marshal, or master of ceremonies.

You are to superintend all processions of the Grand Chapter, when moving as a distinct body, either in public or private; and as the world can only judge of our private discipline by our public deportment, you will be careful that the utmost order and decorum be observed on all such occasions. You will ever be attentive to the commands of your chief, and always near at hand to see them duly executed. I invest you with the badge of your office, and presume that you will give to your duties all that study and attention which their importance demands. I present you with this sword, as the appropriate implement of your office.

CHARGE TO THE EXCELLENT GRAND PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER.

EXCELLENT COMPANION: The office confided to you is one of great importance, though subordinate in degree. Occupying a station which corresponds to that of Senior Deacon in the lower degrees, it becomes your duty to obey and execute the orders of your superiors, and to act as their proxies in the active business of the Grand Chapter. Attention, obedience, and promptitude are, therefore, essen-

tially necessary for the faithful performance of your duties. I present you with the rod, a symbol of command, as the proper ensign of your office.

CHARGE TO THE EXCELLENT GRAND ROYAL ARCH CAPTAIN.

EXCELLENT COMPANION: The office to which you have been elected nearly corresponds to that of Junior Deacon in the inferior degrees. It is, therefore, your duty to see that the external avenues of the Grand Chapter are securely guarded, and that none are permitted to pass or repass but such as are duly qualified and have the requisite permission. Let vigilance and attention, therefore, actuate you in the discharge of the functions of your important office; for the more faithful performance of which, I intrust this sword to your keeping.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND SENTINEL.

COMPANION: You have been appointed Grand Sentinel of this Grand Chapter, and I now invest you with the jewel of your office, and place this sword in your hands, the more effectually to enable you to repel the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and to guard against surprise.

It is your duty to guard the door of the Grand

Chapter on the outside; to report to the Grand Royal Arch Captain those who desire to be admitted; to place the Chapter room in order for convocations; and to attend to such other duties as may be required of you by the Grand Chapter. Your punctual attendance is essentially necessary at every convocation.

The Grand Captain of the Host then makes proclamation as follows:

By authority of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of . . . . . , I proclaim that the Grand Officers have been installed in ample form, with the Grand Honors of Masonry, by three times three.

The public or private Grand Honors of Masonry, accordingly as the installation shall have been publicly or privately conducted, shall then be given, and the installation ceremony will be concluded.

On public occasions, these ceremonies may be preceded and followed by anthems, odes, and addresses, at the discretion of the Grand Chapter.

SECTION IV.

CEREMONIES OBSERVED AT GRAND VISITATIONS.

Whenever the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest intends to visit a Chapter officially, for the purpose of inspecting its condition, the Grand Secretary should notify the High Priest of the intended visit.

The Chapter is opened in the Royal Arch Degree.

The visiting officer being announced, he is received by the Chapter standing, and enters accompanied by his Grand Officers, in the following order:

Grand Captain of the Host.
Grand Royal Arch Captain.
Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer.
Grand Chaplain.
Grand Scribe, Grand King,
Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest.

The Grand Sentinel remains at the door.

They pass through the Veils, being saluted by the Masters of the Veils as they pass; and on arriving at the East, they open to the right and left, and the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest, accompanied by the Grand King and Scribe, passes through to the Sanctum Sanctorum. The Grand Council receive them according to ancient usage, and the High Priest resigns his gavel and the chairs to the Grand High Priest and his Council. The private Grand Honors are then given, and the officers of the Chapter resign their seats to the corresponding Grand Officers, the Principal Sojourner and Masters of the Veils retaining theirs.* The High

* Unless the Grand Chapter is provided with the corresponding officers.

Priest then delivers to the Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest the Warrant of Constitution, the Treasurer's and Secretary's books, and a statement of the funds of the Chapter, for his inspection. Having examined them, he makes such observations as the circumstances and situation of the Chapter may require. The Grand or Deputy Grand High Priest then resigns the chair to the High Priest, and the Grand Officers leave their seats, which are reassumed by the officers of the Chapter, and repair to the East.

Should the Grand Officers retire before the Chapter is closed, the same ceremony must be observed as at their entrance.

On ordinary visitations of any of the Grand Officers to a subordinate Chapter, they shall be received as follows:

The Grand High Priest shall be received by the Captain of the Host and Royal Arch Captain at the door, the Chapter standing, and be conducted to a seat on the right of the Grand Council, the High Priest offering him the gavel.

The Deputy Grand High Priest shall be received in the same manner, and be conducted to a seat on the left of the Grand Council, the High Priest offering him the gavel.

The Grand King and Grand Scribe shall be received at the door by the Royal Arch Captain, and conducted to seats, the Grand King on the right, and the Grand Scribe on the left of the Grand Council; but the High Priest shall not offer them the gavel.

The Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Grand Chaplain shall be received by the Royal Arch Captain, at the White Veil, the Chapter standing, and conducted to seats, the Grand Treasurer on the right, and the Grand Secretary and Grand Chaplain on the left of the Grand Council.

These honors shall not be paid to the Grand Officers unless they cause themselves to be officially announced as such at the door of the Chapter by the Sentinel.

SECTION V.

FORM OF PROCESSION OF A SUBORDINATE CHAPTER.

Sentinel, with flaming sword.
Mark Masters, by twos.
Past Masters, by twos.
Most Excellent Masters, by twos.
Banner of the Chapter.
Royal Arch Masons, by threes, triangularly.

* *

*

Masters of the First and Second Veils, with their banners.
Master of the Third Veil, with his banner.
Royal Arch Captain, with his banner, and Principal Sojourner, with his staff.
Ark of the Covenant, carried by four Companions.
Secretary and Treasurer.
Chaplain and Orator.
Scribe and King.
High Priest.

The Captain of the Host acts as marshal, and walks at the side of the procession.

If any Grand Officers are present, they will take their stations in front of the High Priest.

Processions of the Grand Chapter must be formed in the same manner, the Grand Masters of the Veils and Grand Principal Sojourner being appointed by the Grand High Priest for the occasion.